



# “When Life Seems Unfair”

Ecclesiastes 7:15-18, 8:14-15

## LISTEN

*Record your insights and observations from this week’s sermon:*

## SHARE

Describe a time when you felt life was unfair.

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## REFLECT

- a) Review Ecclesiastes 7:15-18 and 8:14-15. You might also look ahead at 9:1-4.
- b) What is the issue the Preacher was wrestling with in these verses? What’s the source of his frustration?

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- c) In 7:16-18, the Preacher concludes that if righteousness is no guarantee of blessing, we should not waste our time trying to be “overrighteous.” What do you think about that advice? How does it compare or contrast with other teachings of Scripture?

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- d) In 8:15, the Preacher commends “the enjoyment of life.” Evaluate his advice in this verse. Is that the best response

one can make to the reality that life is sometimes unfair? What might you say to someone struggling with the inequities of life in a fallen world?

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**APPLY**

a) Read Psalm 73. How does this Psalm throw light on the dilemma faced by the Preacher of Ecclesiastes?

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b) How does the fact that life was unfair to Jesus bring you comfort?

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c) In his sermon, Mike said that Jesus got what the wicked deserve, so that the wicked could get what Jesus deserved. How can someone who is wicked by nature be considered righteous by God? How does that transaction take place?

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d) What would you say to someone who believes that by working hard, obeying the law, practicing the Golden Rule, and being religious, a person will be blessed in both this life and the next?

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**PRAY**

a) Pray for our families with school-age children as they prepare for the adjustments of another school year.

b) Pray for the many college students moving into their dorms and apartments in east Orlando, and ask God to use UPC in their lives.

c) Pray for Linda Wheatley, the Children’s Ministry Team, and our Sunday School teachers and helpers as they get ready for another year of ministry.

d) Pray for Jonathan Noel and the Worship Band as they prepare for their Vision ’13 concert on September 14.